Impure mineral water in the Railways

1012. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what new initiatives the Indian Railway Catering Corporation is going to take;

(b) whether it is a fact that the recent investigation conducted by the Railways reveals that the level of impurity in mineral water supplied to rail passengers and others at stations and in trains is more than 25 per cent; and

(c) if so, whether the Ministry proposes to set up its own water treatment plant for supply to the Railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation Ltd. (IRCTC) will endeavour to professionalise, upgrade catering/vending services, introduce value-added tour packages, provide budget hotels on Indian Railways etc.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. However to improve quality of mineral water for rail passengers and others, Indian Railways Catering and Tourism Corporation Ltd. (IRCTC)—a subsidiary of Indian Railways—will set up water purification plant for manufacture and supply of pure drinking water on Railways.

Length of Rail Route

†1013. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total length of rail route in the country at present;

(b) the kilometerage of rail lines on which electric and diesel

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.